

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Cottbus Airfield	DATE DISTR.	26 November 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Combined Soviet/Polish/KVP (Air) Maneuvers

- a. A twin engined Polish Air Force transport aircraft landed at Cottbus on 20 August 1954. It was met by Major General Kessler, Commanding General of KVP (Air). Six Polish officers left the aircraft. Their ranks and precise arm of service were not identified. The party then left the airfield, headed by Major General Kessler in his Tatra car. This was followed by two sedans containing the Polish officers and another two sedans containing the Soviet officers. Two of the Soviet officers were an air force colonel and a general with a red collar tab.
- b. Conversation in the officers club divulged that the purpose of the visit was to arrange combined maneuvers between Polish, Soviet and KVP (Air) Forces. The proposed date of these maneuvers is not known. It appeared from the conversations in the club that the KVP (Air) would be participating more in an apprentice and student role than as a decisive partner in the maneuver.

2. Flying Activity

a. 30 August: 0800 hrs.

YAK-11's, which had previously taken off singly or in pairs, began to practice take-offs in threes from the grass.

b. 1 September: 1000-1100 hrs.

YAK-11's in two formations of ten aircraft carried out ground attacks on unidentified targets in the Drachhausen area. The first formation approached the target area with one aircraft ahead and above the first formation. This aircraft did not attack but remained above the attacking formations. The attack was carried out in formation of three in close arrowhead formation diving to a height of about 800 m. The aircraft broke away singly and reformed before flying off. The second formation carried out the same procedure.

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-2-




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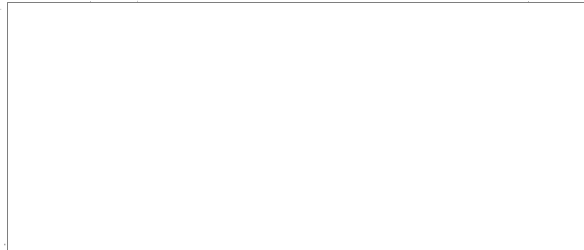
3. Social Gossip

It is becoming common knowledge that Colonel Hans Alter, Head of Rear Services of the KVP (Air) gets on badly with his fellow officers. 

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 only his emoluments keep him loyal to his masters.

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